

ment beyond the Alps which he had just founded, and of which he made the eighth Grand Dignitary of the Empire. General Menou, whom I had not seen since Egypt, was obliged by this appointment to leave Turin, where he had always remained. Bonaparte, not wishing to permit him to come to Paris, sent Menou to preside over the Junta of Tuscany, of which he soon after made another General-Governorship, which he intrusted to the care of his sister Elisa.¹

My correspondence relative to what passed in the south of France and of Europe, presented to me, if I may so express myself, merely an anecdotal interest. Not so the news which came from the north. At Hamburg I was like the sentinel of an advanced post, always on the alert. I frequently informed the Government of what would take place before the event actually happened. I was one of the first to hear of the plans of Russia relative to Sweden. The courier whom I sent to Paris arrived there at the very moment when Russia made the declaration of war. About the end of February the Russian troops entered Swedish Finland, and occupied also the capital of that province, which had at all times been coveted by the Russian Government. It has been said that at the interview at Erfurt Bonaparte consented to the usurpation of that province by Alexander in return for the complaisance of the latter in acknowledging Joseph as King of Spain and the Indies.

The removal of Joseph from the throne of Naples to the throne of Madrid belongs, indeed, to that period respecting which I am now throwing together a few recollections. Murat

¹ Prince Canaille Philippe Louis Borghese (1775-1832), an Italian, had married, 5th November, 1803, Pauline Bonaparte, the sister of Napoleon, and the widow of General Leclevo. He had been made Prince and Duke of Guastalla when that duchy was given to his wife, 30th March, 1806. He separated from his wife after a few years. Indeed Pauline was impossible as a wife if half of the stories about her are true. It was she who, finding that a lady was surprised at her having sat naked while a statue of her was being modelled for Canova, believed she had satisfactorily explained matters by saying "but there was *afire in the room*."

Elisa Bonaparte had married Felix Bacciochi, and had been made Princesse de Piombino et de Luccques 1805. In March, 1809, she was made Grande Duchesse de Toscane, the dignity to which Bourrienne alludes, was on this occasion, as has already been stated, that 900 unopened letters were found in Menou's cabinet after he had left. See *Marmont*, torn*